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Message Text

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17
ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

FEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 TRSE-00 /143 W
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R 120723Z MAY 75
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2822
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3413

FROM USDEL LOS

EO: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJ: LOS: TURKISH VIEWS

1. AMBASSADOR MOORE AND DEL REP DEROCHER MET ON MAY 8, 1975 FOR OVER ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION OF BROAD-RANGE OF LOS ISSUES WITH AMBASSADOR YOLGA AND FIVE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION. TURKEY INDICATED IN DETAIL FULL RANGE OF LOS CONCERNS. AS EXPECTED, AEGEAN DISPUTE WITH GREECE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THEIR LOS POLICY. TURKEY SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES WITH GREECE PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE AND FOR ITS PART SEEMS TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY FOR BILATERAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES. THE FIRST ISSUE RAISED BY TURKEY WAS THE TERRITORIAL SEA EXTENSION AND THE TURKISH PROPOSAL TO MAKE ANY SUCH EXTENSION CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT WITH ANY NEIGHBORING STATES. TURKEY CONFIRMED THAT THE PROPOSAL DID NOT ENVISAGE AN
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EXTENSION BEYOND 12 MILES, AND FLATLY STATED THAT IF GREECE EX-

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TENDED HER TERRITORIAL SEA BEYOND ITS PRESENT LIMITS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY, THE US WOULD BE FACED WITH "ANOTHER CYPRUS SITUATION" OF CONFRONTATION AND POSSIBLE HOSTILITY ELSEWHERE IN THE AEGEAN. AMBASSADOR MOORE RESPONDED THAT THE US'S PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN ITS TWO FRIENDS AND ALLIES WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. DESPITE THE FAIRLY INSISTENT TURKISH PRESSURE FOR COMMITMENT OF US SUPPORT (WHICH PRESSURE WAS CONTINUED ON EACH SUBSEQUENT ISSUE RAISED BY THE TURKISH SIDE), THE US SIDE PROMISED TO REPORT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS TO WASHINGTON AND REITERATED THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PARTIES WORKING OUT A MUTUAL SOLUTION PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE.

2. AMBASSADOR MOORE INQUIRED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY TALKS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUE OR WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PROSPECT THAT THIS ITEM MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA OF ANY PROPOSED TALKS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DISPUTE. TURKEY'S RESPONSE SIGNALLED TURKEY'S WILLINGNESS TO HOLD BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GREECE ON THIS AND OTHER LOS ISSUES, AND POINTED OUT THAT GREECE HAD TAKEN THE CASE TO THE I.C.J. IN WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A FAIRLY PEREMPTORY FASION AND HENCE, FROM TURKEY'S PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS GREECE THAT WAS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE.

3. THE TURKS NEXT RAISED THEIR CONCERN THAT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF NOT BE SUBSUMED IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT AND THAT "THE NATURAL PROLONGATION" DOCTRINE SURVIVE IN THE NEW TREATY. WHILE MOST OF THE TURKISH DISCUSSIONS IN COMMITTEE II ON CONTINENTAL MARGIN ISSUE SEEMED TO RELATE TO BROAD MARGIN CONCERNS, THIS CONVERSATION INDICATED THAT THE REAL TURKISH CONCERN WAS EITHER TO IGNORE THE PRESENCE OF THE GREEK ISLANDS IN DELIMITING THE TURKISH SHELF OR TO SLIDE THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER THE GREEK ECONOMIC ZONE IN SOME FASION.

4. THE TURKS NEXT RAISED THE ISSUE OF COASTAL ARCHPELAGOES AND THE US SIDE RESPONDED BY ASSURING THEM OF OUR CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO THIS CONCEPT AS CLEARLY INDICATED DURING COURSE OF ARCHIPELAGO NEGOTIATIONS.

5. THE TURKS NEXT RAISED THE QUESTION OF ISLANDS, AND AGREED
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WITH THE US SUGGESTION THAT THE PROBLEM WAS REALLY TWO-FOLD, NAMELY, THE QUESTION OF MARITIME SPACE ENTITLEMENT FOR ISLANDS, AND THE QUESTION OF DELIMITATION. AFTER EXTENSIVE TURKISH EXPLANATION OF STANDARD TURKISH POSITION ON THESE ISSUES, THE US POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD REMAINED INACTIVE ON BOTH ISSUES; IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT ANY PUBLIC US TILT TO EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY ON THESE QUESTIONS MIGHT ONLY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION AND LESSEN THE PROSPECT FOR SATISFACTORY MUTUAL SOLUTION. TURKISH PRSSURE

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FOR US COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT SEEMED SIGNIFICANTLY LESS INSISTENT ON THIS ISSUE THAN ON MOST OTHERS.

6. THE NEXT QUESTION RAISED WAS THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ON SEMI-ENCLOSED AREAS. AMBASSADOR YOLGA EXPLAINED THE PRIVATE TURKISH INITIATIVE WITHIN COMMITTEE II INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS GROUP STRUCTURE TO WORK OUT COMMON TEXTS WITH IRAQ AND OTHER SPONSORS OF THE SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS PROPOSALS FROM THE CARACAS MAIN TRENDS PAPER. THE US SAID THE GENERAL US CONCERN WAS WITH SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA CONCEPT AND ITS POTENTIAL USE AS A VEHICLE FOR INTERFERING WITH NAVIGATIONAL FREEDOM. IN REVIEWING THE BLUE PAPER #13 WHICH RESULTED FROM PRIVATE TURKISH CONSULTATIONS, THE US POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES WITH DEFINING ACCESS TO SUCH SEAS IN TERMS OF "PASSAGES TRADITIONALLY USED" BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL CARRY-OVER PREJUDICE TO STRAITS NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES ON MARINE POLLUTION ISSUE. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPONENTS OF SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA HAD NEVER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE INTENT WAS TO LIMIT THE RIGHTS ONLY AS BETWEEN THE RIPARIAN STATES. THE TURKISH SIDE AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THESE PROPOSALS TO ENABLE THE RIPARIAN STATES IN A SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA TO IN ANY WAY ALTER WHATEVER BALANCE IS STRUCK BETWEEN THE RIGHTS OF THE COASTAL STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN TERRITORIAL SEAS, ECONOMIC ZONES, ETC. THE TURKISH SIDE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SOLE INTENT WAS TO IMPOSE OBLIGATIONS, AS BETWEEN THE RIPARIAN STATES IN THE REGION, TO COOPERATE IN THE EXERCISE OF COASTAL STATES RIGHTS. THE TURKISH REPS MADE NOTES ON POSSIBLE DRAFTING CHANGES IN THE BLUE PAPER ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

7. AMBASSADOR MOORE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE CLOSING MOMENTS OF THE CONVERSATION, TO POINT OUT THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OF UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS IN THIS SESSION, AND THE RELATIVE ISOLATION OF STRAITS OPPONENTS WITH EMPHASIS ON OMAN, THE YEMENS, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MOROCCO (THOUGH POSSIBLY NOW SHIFTING POSITIONS). IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE TURKISH SIDE RECEIVED THE SIGNAL THAT THEIR HELP ON THE STRAITS ISSUE WITHIN THE MOSLEM WORLD WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

8. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION IT WAS MADE EXPLICIT BY TURKISH REPS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM AMB. MOORE, THAT TURKISH NAVIGATIONAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS IMPLICIT IN TERRITORIAL SEA EXTENSIONS BY GREECE WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RESOURCE INTERESTS AT STAKE ALTHOUGH THE RESOURCE INTERESTS WERE ALSO VERY IMPORTANT.ABRAMS

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